

Illinois Health Information Exchange

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 5, 2013

ILLINOIS HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (ILHIE) LAUNCHES HEALTH IT CONSUMER EDUCATION TOOLKIT

CHICAGO - The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) has just released its Consumer Education Health IT Toolkit. It was developed to provide healthcare professionals with simple and informative educational material to share with their patients. Consumer education and engagement are cornerstones for the implementation of a successful state health IT program. The best care plan won't work unless the patient agrees to follow it. It is critical to inform and educate consumers about the new tools available to them.

Raul Recarey, Executive Director of the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) Authority comments: "good communication between provider and patient is a critically important part of great health care. An informed patient is better equipped to engage in this two-way dialog, being able to do so electronically makes it convenient, secure and easy. It is our desire that the Consumer Health IT Education Toolkit will be one important resource to help educate and engage patients to be more communicative and proactive in their health and the health of their families. The electronic health record (EHR) and health information exchange (HIE) are not meant to replace the critical dialog between a patient and physician but to enhance it."

The Toolkit was developed with input and guidance from the ILHIE Consumer Education Work Group and the ILHIE Advisory Committee consisting of leaders in health IT.

Versions of the Toolkit have been created for consumers, for providers and another version created in Microsoft Word where providers can revise and re-brand as they choose. The Toolkit is available in both English and Spanish

To access the English and Spanish Toolkits please visit tinyurl.com/ILHIEConsumerToolkit. They can also be found on the ILHIE homepage, ilhie.org, under both the Consumer and Provider tabs near the top of the page.

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About the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) and the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE)

The Illinois Office of Health Information Technology is working with The Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority to promote the development of health information technology, increase the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records, assure the privacy and security of electronic health information, and direct the implementation of the statewide health information exchange. The main goals of this exciting technology are to improve the quality of health for all Americans while reducing the cost of health care delivery. Illinois is committed to making these goals a reality.